IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Gary M. Lewis, De Fu Li and Nathan R. Melhorn

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Group:

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<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 10, 2006 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows: